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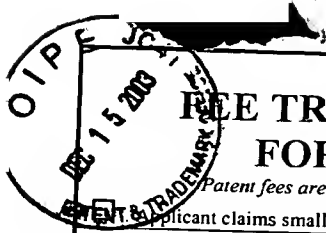
DEC 23 2003

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/995,812
		Filing Date	November 29, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Hiromi NANBA et al.
		Group Art Unit	1743
		Examiner Name	Lyle Alexander
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	741440-33

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration and Power of Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt with Enclosures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A self-addressed prepaid postcard for acknowledging receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 for the above identified docket number.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Donald R. Studebaker Nixon Peabody LLP 401 9 th Street, N.W. Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
Signature	
Date	December 10, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
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December 10, 2003 Date	 Signature Linda Ritter Typed or printed name



FREE TRANSMITTAL FOR FY 2003

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$180.00)

Complete if Known
Application Number 09/995,812
Filing Date November 29, 2001
First Named Inventor Hiromi NANBA et al.
Examiner Name Lyle Alexander
Art Unit 1743
Attorney Docket No. 741440-33

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TC 1700

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit
Account
Number

19-2380(741440-33)

Deposit
Account
Name

Nixon Peabody LLP

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments

☒ Charge any additional fee(s)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims -20** = X = Fee Paid
Independent Claims -3** = X =
Multiple Dependent X =

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$180.00)

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December 10, 2003

Date

Signature

Linda Ritter

Typed or printed name

SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)

Donald R. Studebaker

Registration No.

32,815

(Attorney/Agent)

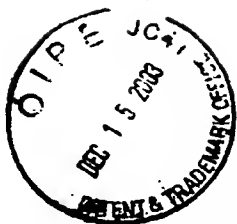
Complete (if applicable)

Telephone

(202)585-8000

Date

December 10, 2003



Application No. 09/995,812

Docket No. 741440-33

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TC 1700

In re Patent Application of:

Hiromi NANBA et al.

Serial No. 09/995,812

Filed: November 29, 2001

For: INSTRUMENT AND METHOD FOR
BLOOD SEPARATION, AND PREPARING
METHOD, QUANTIFYING METHOD AND
PRESERVING CONTAINER FOR
BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE

Examiner: Lyle Alexander

Group Art Unit: 1743

Confirmation No. 1077

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Signature:

Linda Ritter

Name: Linda Ritter

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180 to deposit account no. 19-2380 to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

12/17/2003 HALI11 00000016 192380 09995812

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NVA283958.1

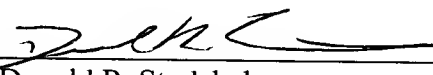
Enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report dated September 17, 2003, for a corresponding European patent application together with the references cited therein.

Additionally, please note that cited references WO 91 08782, WO 96 20402 and WO 97 29369 were previously filed on August 11, 2003, therefore these references are not enclosed.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (741440-33)

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON PEABODY LLP

By: 
Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2128

Telephone: (202) 585-8000



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Substitute for form 1449 for INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/995,812
				Filing Date	November 29, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Hiromi NANBA et al.
				Art Unit	1743
				Examiner Name	Lyle Alexander
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	741440-33

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,304,348	04-19-1994	Burd et al.	
		US-5,624,597	04-29-1997	Buhl et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials ²	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2003	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.